

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 098392

65

ORIGIN EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SNM-02 DODE-00 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 L-02 MC-02 EB-07 COME-00 AID-05

TRSE-00 JUSE-00 OMB-01 DEAE-00 /062 R

DRAFTED BY EA/TB:CLSTERMER:LRR

APPROVED BY EA/TB - GEORGE ROBERTS

S/NM - MR. RAFFERTY (SUBS)

DOD/ISA - LT. COL. DOUSE (SUBS)

EA/RA - COL. BAILEY (DRAFT)

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P 282133Z APR 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY RANGOON PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 098392

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: SNAR, BM, MASS

SUBJECT: ARMORED CAR LICENSE DENIAL

REF: RANGOON 1035

1. THE DEPARTMENT (EA/TB) PRESENTED THE FOLLOWING REVISED
AID MEMOIRE TO FIRST SECRETARY SOE MYINT OF THE BURMESE
EMBASSY ON APRIL 25:

BEGIN TEXT: THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE HAS DENIED A LICENSE
TO THE CADILLAC GAGE COMPANY FOR THE EXPORT OF NINE V-150
COMMANDO ARMORED CARS TO BURMA SINCE THE CARS IN QUESTION
APPEAR PRIMARILY DESIGNED TO COPE WITH PUBLIC SAFETY, URBAN
UNREST, AND OTHER STRICTLY INTERNAL PROBLEMS.

AT THE SAME TIME, THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT IS PREPARED
TO CONTINUE TO SELL OTHER APPROPRIATE MILITARY EQUIPMENT
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PAGE 02 STATE 098392

TO THE GOVERNMENT OF BURMA. WE ARE PREPARED TO MAKE AVAIL-

ABLE, FOR EXAMPLE, T-33 AIRCRAFT AT AN ADVANTAGEOUS PRICE.
END TEXT.

2. AS NOTED, WE ADOPTED ONE OF THE EMBASSY'S SUGGESTED
CHANGES IN THE SECOND PARAGRAPH BUT RETAINED THE REFERENCE
TO T-33'S FOR THE FOLLOWING REASON. ALTHOUGH THE PRICE OF

200,000 DOLS FOR A COMPLETELY RE-CONDITIONED AT-33 AIRCRAFT
PLUS TRANSPORTATION HAS BEEN CONFIRMED BY DOD OFFICIALS,
THEY ALSO POINT OUT THAT THE BURMESE STILL CAN OPT FOR
AN AIRCRAFT(S) WITH LESS THAN THE FULL IRAN TREATMENT AND
THUS AT LOWER COSTS. EVEN THE 200,000 DOL COST, WE
BELIEVE, STILL CONSTITUTES AN ADVANTAGEOUS PRICE. (FYI:
THE BURMESE EMBASSY OFFICERS WERE VERY INTERESTED IN THE
AT-33 INFORMATION AND WE PRESUME WILL ALSO REPORT THIS
DATA TO THE FOREIGN MINISTRY. END FYI).

3. WE ALSO DECIDED NOT TO REFER IN THIS NOTE AND CONTEXT
TO OUR CONTINUED WILLINGNESS TO MAKE AVAILABLE TO BURMA
OTHER NARCOTICS CONTROL EQUIPMENT. IT SEEMED INADVISABLE
TO GIVE THE IMPRESSION THAT WE WERE LINKING THE NARCOTICS
PROGRAM WITH OUR ARMS EXPORT POLICIES AS THE ORIGINAL
DRAFT TENDED TO DO. SHOULD THIS SUBJECT ARISE, HOWEVER,
IN INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS WITH BURMESE OFFICIALS, YOU
SHOULD STRESS THAT WE APPRECIATE THEIR COOPERATION ON
NARCOTICS CONTROL MATTERS AND THAT WE LOOK FORWARD TO
FURTHER CONSULTATIONS REGARDING THE AVAILABILITY OF
ADDITIONAL EQUIPMENT.

4. AFTER READING THE AIDE MEMOIRE, SOE MYINT SAID THAT
THE EMBASSY HAD BEEN UNAWARE OF ANY NEGOTIATIONS UNDERWAY
BETWEEN CADILLAC GAGE AND THE GUB. WHEN TOLD THAT
INCREASING PUBLIC AND CONGRESSIONAL CONCERN OVER OUR ARMS
EXPORT POLICIES HAD CAUSED US TO CONSIDER THE POLITICAL
IMPLICATIONS OF APPROVING THE SALE OF THESE ARMORED CARS,
SOE MYINT INDICATED THAT HE UNDERSTOOD, ESPECIALLY IN
VIEW OF HOW WE EXPECTED THE VEHICLES MIGHT BE USED.

5. WE POINTED OUT TO SOE MYINT THAT EVEN THOUGH THE
BURMESE GOVERNMENT HAD ALREADY BEEN TOLD IN RANGOON
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PAGE 03 STATE 098392

ABOUT THE T-33'S, WE ESPECIALLY WANTED TO MENTION THEM
IN THIS CONTEXT SO AS TO MAKE CLEAR THAT WE DID NOT RPT
NOT WANT BURMA TO THINK THAT WE WERE UNWILLING TO MEET
ANY OF THEIR ARMS REQUIREMENTS. SOE MYINT SAID HE UNDER-
STOOD THE POINT WE WERE TRYING TO MAKE.

6. AFTER ASKING THE SPECIFIC QUESTIONS ABOUT THE T-33
OFFER AS NOTED ABOVE, SOE MYINT ASKED WHERE ANY FURTHER

INQUIRIES SHOULD BE MADE. WE ADVISED HIM THAT THE AIR
ATTACHE IN RANGOON WAS THE APPROPRIATE CONTACT POINT. KISSINGER

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